

**Annual Group Meeting**  
**Western Region 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008**  
**Lysley Arms, Chippenham**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion Point</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Election of Chairman to the meeting</b>  The AGM elected Committee Chairman, Andy Meredith, to Chair the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Bev & Nick Hearn; Louise Brown; Les Jevins; Paul McCullough; Robbie Harris.  <b>Due to the lateness of the NC Observer it was decided that David Short, who had been invited as Guest Speaker, should give his presentation prior to the AGM commencing.</b> David introduced himself and gave a brief resume of his background. He introduced Tony Sharp, a MAG Member, and President of the South Gloucestershire National Motorcycle Council working group. He then went on to talk about the role he plays in discussions with Government officials on MAG's/Motorcycling's behalf. He spoke about the progress made with Anti-slip Manhole covers at Government level & a new British Standard which would be more motorcycle friendly etc. etc.  This was an interesting presentation inviting some questions from the members. The Q&A's, as had been expected, did encroach on the scheduled Item 9 – MAG's re-launch/logo.  At this juncture the NC Observer arrived and it was decided to work through the planned agenda and take up Item 9 at the appropriate time.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>  As usual, due to the length of time between meetings, these were ratified by the Regional Committee and published on the website. Paper copies were available at the meeting.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Regional Report</b>  Andy Meredith, Committee Chairman, explained the role of his post and gave a concise report on the Region's activities throughout the year and, in the absence of a Regional Rep, explained the role of the Regional Committee praising the elected officers for the way they executed their roles.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Regional Accounts</b>  These were presented by Regional Treasurer, Kath Aldom, and accepted	

by the meeting as correct.

**6. Election of Regional Auditors**

It was decided by the meeting to retain the existing auditors.

**7. Officers**

Reports were presented to the meeting by the following officers:-

Co-opted NC Liaison Trace (Bryan Chapman)  
Regional webmaster Steve Peake Peake  
Regional Communications Officer Andy Meredith  
Political Officer George Legg (The Troll)  
Regional Membership Secretary Di Pugsley  
Admin Officer Anne Gale

[At this juncture, the Administrator apologises to the Clubs Liaison Officer, Andy Kerr, for not including him on this list. Andy has done a superb job in his first year – thanks Andy and sorry again]

**8. Election of Regional Officers**

**NC Liaison** Bill Pugsley  
Proposed: Anne Gale 63175(L) Seconded: George Legg 112454 (L)

Unanimous

**Committee Chairman** Andy Meredith (re-standing)  
Proposed: Bryan Chapman 62428 Seconder: Andy Kerr 112952

Unanimous

**Treasurer** Kath Aldom (re-standing)  
Proposed: Den Powell 121809 Seconder: Geoff Mills 71781 (L)

Unanimous

**Webmaster** Steve Peake (re-standing)  
Proposed: Andy Meredith Seconder: Anne Gale 63175(L)

Unanimous

**Communications Officer** Andy Meredith (re-standing)  
Proposed: Bryan Chapman 62428 Seconder: Andy Kerr 112952

Unanimous

**Political Officer**  
George Legg

Proposed: Anne Gale Seconded: Denny Powell

Unanimous

**Regional Newsletter Ed.** George Legg (re-standing)  
Proposed: Anne Gale 63175(L) Seconder: Andy Kerr 112952

Unanimous

**Regional Events Co-Ordinator** George Legg (re-standing)

Proposed: Andy Kerr 112952                      Seconders:

Unanimous

**Regional Administrator**                      Anne Gale (re-standing)  
Proposed: George Legg 112454 (L)                      Seconders: Den Powell 121809

Unanimous

**Membership Secretary**                      Di Pugsley (re-standing)  
Proposed: Den Powell 121809                      Seconders: Kath Aldom 71781(L)

Unanimous

**Clubs Liaison Officer**                      Andy Kerr (re-standing)  
Proposed: George Legg 112454                      Seconders: Andy Meredith

Unanimous

**Products Officer**                      Taff

Proposed: Andy Meredith   Seconders: Trace (Bryan Chapman) 62428

Unanimous

**Officer/s without Portfolio** – No takers

### **Regional Award**

Anne G gave a brief introduction to the recipient who had worked diligently and hard organising events and raising much money for MAG ever since she first walked into the then Bristol MAG venue of Le Beq's many years before. The Award went to Claire Bryant – a most deserved recipient.

### **9. Matters appertaining to the re-launch and monies incurred**

The Committee Chairman explained that the Regional Committee had repeatedly sent a question to the National Chairman = "***Who/when was the amount to be spent on the re-launch of £24k ratified for expenditure?***". This had been sent at least 3 times, possibly 4 via Trace, our NC Liaison, however, the National Chairman had declined to respond to any request.

It was explained that the National Chairman was ignoring the requests of those Committee officers who had been elected by their members at their Regional AGM. Therefore, the Regional Committee felt it had no alternative but to ask the present AGM to ratify the question to the National Chairman in the hope she would respond to the Region as a whole.

A vote was taken on the ***above question*** to be sent to the National Chairman from the whole Region.

Vote: **In favour with one absention.**

Ian Mutch, who was the NC Observer, gave a brief scenario of how the re-launch was reached. Then a discussion ensued on the whole re-launch, how it was conducted, the monies allegedly spent, etc.

A lengthy & sometimes heated discussion ensued.

Geoff Mills wanted to know why, when the decision to spend £15k had been decided at the NC meeting immediately preceding the Annual Group Conference, this was not announced at Conference. This question was not taken up by either IM or DS.

Anne Gale mentioned that her main concern was the seeming lack of sufficient agenda's and minutes appertaining the very meetings where important decisions were made. She quoted the email sent to the NC from the N. Chairman to Regional Reps for a meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007 wherein no indication was given to the recipients that, at this meeting they would be expected to take a decision on the re-launch & whether to progress with it or not.

Andy Derrett, Bristol MAG Rep, asked Ian Mutch: "Do you think this was justly conducted?"

Ian replied "it could have been conducted more democratically".

Ian went on to say that the changes in The Road had been made trying to appeal to all spectrums of PTW riders.

Trace, Western Region's outgoing NC Liaison, told the meeting that the NC have admitted they made mistakes in devolving this issue down to the ranks.

Di Pugsley asked if the re-launch was put out to tender and if not, why not?

David Short gave a brief scenario of how the decision had been taken to give the business to people he had previously employed in producing stuff for BikeSafe.

Tony Sharp mentioned that 3 quotes were not necessary – that what we should be asking is was the decision to use Creo correct – were they fit for purpose.

Andy Derrett, Bristol MAG Rep, expressed his concern that there seems to be a lack of liaison between the Board&NC and the ordinary members. And that the employees/officers did not seem to be taking notice of what members said they wanted or of their views.

Sue Stafford said that returning to Glos MAG after 3 years away she felt that the liaison was not as it once had been.

Denny Powell, Glos MAG Rep, asked Ian Mutch/David Short why it had been decided to move away from MAG's legendary traditional colours of black/yellow? Ian could not give a clear answer to this citing the colour

of the new logo helmets as 'yellowish'. From the floor it was confirmed they were definitely orange & not yellow.

Andy Meredith brought the discussion to a conclusion by reiterating the concerns of the regional committee in that Minutes could only be found ratifying £15k for expenditure but that this has suddenly expanded to £24k with no minutes to reflect ratification for this amount. The website had been created 'free of charge'. Therefore, the request of this AGM for an explanation from the Chair would go forward as agreed.

## **10 Any Other Business**

- a. Alan Robertson told Ian Mutch that some of the pages/typefaces in The Road were difficult to read. An explanation ensued.
- b. Denny Powell asked why photos included in the Road of Cruisers were taken in the US and not UK. Ian Mutch explained that there had been no GB picture available.
- c. **2009 Regional AGM** to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and hosted by Glos MAG at England's Glory.

**Meeting closed at 3.45.**